

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 551

By Henry

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Alice Ann Barge for
meritorious service to the citizens of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens, who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves as community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, one such noteworthy person is Alice Ann Barge, who was recently awarded the Presidential Volunteer Service Award in recognition of her decades of work to preserve the urban forest of Nashville; and

WHEREAS, a truly prestigious honor, the Presidential Volunteer Service Award recognizes those Americans who, by their demonstrated commitment and example, inspire others to engage in volunteer service; and

WHEREAS, presented the award at the Great American Cleanup event on May 14, 2009, Ms. Barge is a lifelong resident of Nashville and a retired teacher, having spent many years teaching fourth grade at Oak Hill School; and

WHEREAS, her affinity for trees began to grow during her teaching career, when she realized that teachers had to recognize Arbor Day; she had students in her science classes label the trees on the campus, some more than two centuries old, many of which were present during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, long considered Nashville's leading advocate for trees, Alice Ann Barge helped found the Nashville Tree Foundation in 1986, and her class guidelines led to the formation of the Big Old Tree contest, a spring event that catalogs Davidson County's oldest and biggest specimens; and

WHEREAS, aiding in the recovery from the devastating tornado that struck East Nashville in 1998, Ms. Barge worked with ReLeaf, an effort to replace the 20,000 trees destroyed by the storm, which has now grown into an annual event to plant hundreds of trees each fall; and

WHEREAS, bringing focus and initiative to community actions, Ms. Barge also led the efforts to establish the Metropolitan Tree Board in 1985 and subsequently served on the board and its successor, the Metro Tree Advisory Council; and

WHEREAS, by her outstanding service to her community, Alice Ann Barge epitomizes the spirit and commitment that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud Alice Ann Barge for her dedication to the state of Tennessee and its citizens; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Alice Ann Barge on her receipt of the Presidential Volunteer Service Award, for her tireless efforts on behalf of the urban forests of Nashville, and for her meritorious service to the State of Tennessee, as we extend to her our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.